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REMARKS

Claims 4, 5, and 37-39 are currently pending in the above-identified application. Claims 5 and 38 have been amended. Support for these amendments is identified in the following remarks. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Claims 3, 37 and 39 have been canceled without prejudice to Applicant's right to prosecute the subject matter of the claims in a related, co-pending application.

Claim Objections

Claim 37 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

Claim 37 has been canceled, thereby obviating this objection.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §112

Claims 5, 38 and 39 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 5 has been amended to obviate the rejection, and claim 38 has been rewritten in independent form. New claim 40 is similar in format to claim 5, but depends from claim 38.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an

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early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 206-467-9600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 9 December 2003

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